

BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

John M. Brown, Jr.
Chairman

M.W. Sevak
Secretary



Robbyn Tumey
Member

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AMENDED

MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

December 14, 2011

Commission members present: John Brown, Jr., Mike Sevak, and Robbyn Tumey

Others present: Tena O'Brien, Christine Southard, Sharon Rose, Dana Ferguson, and Duane Neal

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Daily Record

Commissioner John Brown called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. and welcomed everyone.

Minutes:

Chairman Brown asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of December 6, 2011. Commissioner Sevak made a motion that the minutes from December 6, 2011 meetings be approved as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business:

- A. Order establishing Polling Locations for the Special Gravette School Election for February 14, 2011: Chairman Brown stated that there are four (4) polling locations for the Special Gravette School Election. Chairman Brown asked for comments. Christine Southard reported that she and Dana Ferguson are discussing information to input into the portal for ES&S and they are suggesting two (2) voting machines per voting location. Christine stated that one voting machine would be an ADA machine and the other voting machine would be a regular one. She said this would be twelve voting machines: two (2) for early voting; two (2) per voting location; one (1) for public viewing; and one (1) for the early voting demo. "Chairman Brown asked Christine if there would be early voting in Rogers and Bentonville. Christine responded that she thought only Bentonville would have early voting. Chairman Brown stated that early voting comes under the preview of the County Clerk." Chairman Brown asked Christine how many paper ballots were ordered for the last Gravette School Election. Christine stated she was uncertain at this time but she was basing the quantity on the percentage of ballots casts in the last election and a number of the larger precincts for the November, 2011 election received twenty-five (25) ballots. Commissioner Tumey asked Christine what was the anticipated turn-out for this election. Christine responded in the 2011 Annual School Election, the total votes cast in the Gravette School District were about a half percent. Commissioner Sevak

stated that he does not feel that two (2) voting machines per polling location are necessary and it would cost more to move the Ivotronics, setting them up, testing, loading, and sending them out; then, if the Ivotronics are not used it is a waste of money. Commissioner Sevak stated he did not feel the commission needed to send that many Ivotronics out for this election. Commissioner Sevak stated that he was certain that the Gravette School District had done their homework and had picked the polling sites because of their turnout. Christine Southard stated that the polling sites are the ones that the Gravette School District uses for each election. Commissioner Tumey asked Christine if a certain number of paper ballots are required. Christine responded that Benton County is required to have a certain number of paper ballots, but since Ivotronics are used, the percentage is less. Chairman Brown stated that he and Commissioners Sevak and Tumey had no objections to signing the Order Establishing the Polling Locations. Chairman Brown asked how many paper ballots did the commissioners want to send out. Commissioner Tumey responded that she could print them if needed. Christine stated that she was not going to order the BOD for this election because the cost is \$459.00 and ES&S prints the ballot for coding, which is for the L&A testing, and sample ballots. Christine stated it would be better to go ahead and order the quantity of ballots that are needed. Chairman Brown asked how many overseas ballot requests we have. Dana responded that she thinks there are two or three in the Gravette School District. Christine stated that if she ordered twenty-five (25) paper ballots per polling site, that would be too many and these ballots will be set-up by polling locations, making four (4) ballot faces. Christine stated that there would be Ivotronics machines prepped in case one would have to be changed out. Christine asked the commissioners if they wanted one (1) machine per polling site. Commissioner Tumey asked Tom Sissom if he knew if this election was for a new tax. Tom responded that he did not know. County Clerk Tena O'Brien stated the election was not a new tax but a redirection of the same tax. The order establishing the four (4) polling locations was approved by voice vote.

- B. Discussion regarding the change of voting precincts: Chairman Brown asked for comments. Dana reported that the redistricting in the voter system is at a standstill until the commissioners make a decision on the precincts and that she and Christine have some suggestions. Dana stated that there are twenty-three (23) polling sites that precincts share and that these precincts vote in the same location, use the same books, and the same voting machines but have different precinct numbers. Dana stated that physically no precinct lines are being changed but removing the middle line will make it one precinct instead of two precincts going to a particular polling site. She also stated that this process would require some renumbering. Christine stated that some polling locations are outside the boundaries of the precinct and there are many that should be combined because they have 300 to 400 voters and they have to have separate poll workers for each precinct. Dana gave an example of Prairie Creek, Precinct 76 and Lakeside Baptist Church, Precinct 77, stating that combining these two precincts would make a total of approximately 2,600 voters in that precinct. Tena asked the commission if they could make a decision soon and asked Dana to report on her conversation with Jeff Hawkins at the NW Arkansas Regional Planning Commission last week regarding the voting precincts, Dana reported that Jeff stated that he has not talked with anyone that was appointed to the precinct committee and that his opinion would be to refer the voting precincts back to the County Clerk's office to draw, because of the availability of the voter count and that at this point, he would not be able to do it. Chairman Brown asked Duane Neal if he had any suggestions. Duane stated at this time, he has no suggestions. Duane stated that Jim McCarthy is reluctant to serve on the committee until the 2012 elections are out of the way. Duane stated, in his opinion, that the combining of precincts should be done as needed, as long as the precincts boundaries are not changed. Duane stated that it would be a smaller task to send new voter cards to several precincts than to send new voter cards to all precincts. Christine stated that if the precincts are combined, they will have to be renumbered and that the precincts being considered are currently voting together anyway. Commissioner Tumey stated that anything that is done will be controversial and change is going to be hard. Christine stated combining some precincts will minimize the number of machines to be set-up, the amount of media that is ordered, and the number of ballots ordered. Commissioner Sevak stated that the most important thing is to combine some districts, but wait until after the elections in 2012 to continue because of the work involved. Commissioner Tumey stated it

would be helpful if she could know how many voters and turnout was in the 2008. Tena asked the commissioners if they would like to come to her office and view a proposed map with the combined precincts. Commissioner Tumey stated that nothing has changed but the number of people and that the county will eventually have to look at splitting some districts to reduce the number of people voting at some polling sites and the time it takes voters to vote. Commissioner Tumey stated that she feels people are disenfranchised because of long lines. Commissioner Tumey asked Christine what the deadline is to have ballot information in the ES&S portal. Christine responded that they have forty-seven days before the election. Dana stated that she has to have everything completed in the voter system by January 31, 2012. Chairman Brown asked Christine if the cities are required to vote by Wards. Christine responded that first and second class cities are required to have a polling location within the Ward if possible. Commissioner Sevak asked Dana to prepare a map showing the proposed consolidations, with the number of voters in the newly combined precincts to be discussed at the next commissioners meeting.

- C. Discussion on First Christian Church, Precinct 37: Chairman Brown stated that this precinct was discussed in the previous discussion regarding the change of voting precincts. He stated that further discussion will be had at the next meeting.

Old Business:

Christine stated that the Reimbursement of State Funded Expenses does not need to be signed by the commissioners, but by the person preparing the report. Christine asked the commissioners to sign as a confirmation that they looked it over and discussed the report. Chairman Brown asked Christine what the cost was for the Statewide Election held 11-8-2011. Christine responded it was \$50,206.36. The commissioners complimented Christine on a job well done. Chairman Brown asked if reimbursement for the trustee's from the Sheriff's Department is allowed. Christine stated no, it is not allowed.

Chairman Brown made a motion to sign the Reimbursement of Stated-Funded Expenses for the Statewide Special Election. No objections were voiced.

Public Comments:

None

Other Business:

None

Announcements:

Chairman Brown congratulated Dana on her position as Election Coordinator for the Election Commission. Chairman Brown stated the next meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2011 at 10:30 A.M.

Adjournment:

Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Sevak, Secretary
Prepared by Sharon Rose, Election Commission Staff